

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A personally portable vacuum desiccator for collecting and storing liquid exudate ~~from a wound or incision on a user~~ comprising:

a desiccator cartridge having an interior chamber, a unidirectional inlet port to the chamber, an outlet port from the chamber, and having a trapping agent in the chamber;

a vacuum pump in fluid communication with ~~said chamber~~ the outlet port;

a motor operably connected to said vacuum pump;

a planar, low profile battery connected to the motor; and

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with ~~said chamber and a second end in fluid communication with the wound or incision to transmit the liquid exudate from the wound or incision to the chamber;~~ the inlet port.

~~said vacuum desiccator being transportable upon the user's person;~~

~~said vacuum pump being operable to draw liquid exudate from the wound or incision through said tube and into said chamber;~~

~~said trapping agent having a capacity for trapping a volume of the liquid exudate.~~

22. (Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 21 wherein said trapping agent is selected from the group

consisting of desiccants, adsorbents, and absorbents.

23.(Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 21 wherein said tube comprises a single passage flow path.

24.(Canceled)

25.(Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 21 further comprising a control circuit in electrical communication with said motor for controlling the operation of said motor.

26.(Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 25 wherein said control circuit comprises at least one sensor selected from the group consisting of moisture sensors, pressure sensors, and pressure differential sensors.

27.(Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 25 wherein said control circuit comprises an I/O unit.

28.(Currently amended) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 21 wherein said ~~chamber~~desiccator cartridge comprises a transparent material which allows observation of said trapping agent.

29.(Currently amended) A personally portable vacuum desiccator for collecting and storing liquid exudate ~~from a wound or incision on a user~~ comprising:

a chamber having a trapping agent and a gas flow channel;

a vacuum pump in fluid communication with said chamber;

a motor operably connected to said vacuum pump;

a planar, low profile battery connected to the motor;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said chamber

~~and a second end in fluid communication with the wound or incision during healing of the wound or incision;~~

~~said vacuum desiccator being transportable upon the user's  
person;  
said vacuum pump being operable to draw liquid exudate from the  
wound or incision through said tube and into said chamber;  
and  
said trapping agent having a capacity for trapping a volume of the  
liquid exudate.~~

30. (Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 29, wherein said trapping agent is selected from the group consisting of desiccants, adsorbents, and absorbents.
31. (Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 29, wherein said tube comprises a single passage flow path.
32. (Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 29, wherein said trapping agent is disposed within a cartridge that is removable from said desiccator.
33. (Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 29 further comprising a control circuit in electrical communication with said motor for controlling the operation of said motor.
34. (Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 33, wherein said control circuit comprises at least one sensor selected from the group consisting of moisture sensors, pressure sensors, and pressure differential sensors.
35. (Previously presented) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 33, wherein said control circuit comprises an I/O unit.
36. (Currently amended) The personally portable vacuum desiccator of claim 2932, wherein said chambercartridge comprises a transparent material

which allows observation of said trapping agent.

37. (Currently amended) A vacuum desiccator for collecting and storing liquid exudate ~~from a wound or incision~~ comprising:

a chamber having a trapping agent, a unidirectional inlet port to the chamber, and an outlet port from the chamber;

a vacuum pump in fluid communication with ~~said chamber~~ the outlet port;

a motor operably connected to said vacuum pump;

a low profile battery connected to the motor;

a micro-filter located between the outlet port and the vacuum pump; and

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with ~~said chamber~~ and a second end in fluid communication with the wound or incision to transmit the liquid exudate from the wound or incision to the chamber the inlet port.

38. (Currently amended) The vacuum desiccator of claim 37, wherein said vacuum desiccator is transportable upon the body of a person ~~having the wound or incision.~~

39. (Currently amended) The vacuum desiccator of claim 37, wherein said vacuum pump is operable to draw liquid exudate from ~~the~~ a wound or incision through said tube and into said chamber.

40. (Previously presented) The vacuum desiccator of claim 37, wherein said trapping agent includes a capacity for trapping a volume of the liquid exudate.

41. (Currently amended) A vacuum desiccator for collecting and storing liquid exudate ~~from a wound or incision~~ comprising:

a housing having a removable desiccator cartridge, a vacuum pump, and a motor operably connected to the vacuum pump;

a chamber interior to the desiccator cartridge having a trapping agent;

a unidirectional inlet port to the chamber;

an outlet port from the chamber in fluid communication with a  
~~vacuum pump in fluid communication with said chamber;~~

~~a motor operably connected to said vacuum pump; and~~

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with ~~said chamber~~  
~~and a second end in fluid communication with the wound or incision during healing of the wound or incision~~ the unidirectional inlet port.

42. (Currently amended) The vacuum desiccator of claim 41, wherein said vacuum desiccator is transportable upon the body of a person ~~having the wound or incision.~~

43. (Currently amended) The vacuum desiccator of claim 41, wherein said vacuum pump is operable to draw liquid exudate from ~~the~~ a wound or incision through said tube and into said chamber.

44. (Previously presented) The vacuum desiccator of claim 41, wherein said trapping agent includes a capacity for trapping a volume of the liquid exudate.

45. (Currently amended) A vacuum desiccator comprising:

a removable desiccator cartridge having an interior chamber, a unidirectional inlet port to the chamber, an outlet port from the chamber, a perforated gas flow channel, a low profile battery, and having a trapping agent in the chamber;

a vacuum pump in fluid communication with said chamber through the outlet port;  
a motor operably connected to the low profile battery and said vacuum pump;  
a low profile housing enclosing the desiccator cartridge, the vacuum pump, and the motor;  
a micro-filter positioned between the outlet port and the vacuum pump; and  
a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said chamber through the unidirectional inlet port~~and a second end adapted to be positioned in fluid communication with a wound or incision; and~~  
~~wherein the vacuum desiccator is generally flat and may be worn unobtrusively by a user and is adaptable for collecting and trapping liquid exudate from the wound or incision in said chamber.~~

46.(Currently amended) The vacuum desiccator of claim 45, wherein the tube transmits liquid exudate from ~~the~~a wound or incision to the chamber.

47.(Currently amended) The vacuum desiccator of claim 45, wherein ~~the~~a second end of the tube is in fluid communication with ~~the~~a wound or incision during healing of the wound or incision.